

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A side airbag apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag having a side aspect including a generally wedge shaped rear aspect portion when the airbag is deployed, the generally wedge shaped ~~rear aspect~~ narrowing from an upper region to a lower region portion including a posterior edge, a top edge extending forward from the posterior edge, and a bottom edge, at least a portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward from the posterior edge such that the airbag substantially covers an upper arm of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag while inhibiting coverage of a lower arm of the occupant, thereby inhibiting loading on the thorax of [[an]] the occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag; and

an inflator cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

2. (currently amended) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag has a [[side]] generally wedge shaped rear aspect including a generally wedge shaped portion when the airbag is deployed, the generally wedge shaped ~~portion including a posterior edge, a top edge extending forward from the posterior edge, and a bottom edge, at least a portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward from the posterior edge~~ rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region, thereby further inhibiting loading on the thorax of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag.

3. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to a front region.

4. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

5. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

6. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

7. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag includes a reinforced region for providing additional strength to the airbag.

8. (original) An airbag apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
an airbag having a generally wedge shaped rear aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region, thereby inhibiting loading on the thorax of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag, the airbag having a side aspect including first and second portions, the first portion being generally triangular and narrowing from a back region to a front region, thereby further inhibiting loading on the thorax of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag, the second portion being contiguous with the first portion and including at least one mounting hole; and

an inflator configured for attachment to the airbag at the at least one mounting hole, and cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

9. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to the front region.

10. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

11. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

12. (original) The airbag apparatus of claim 8, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

13. (currently amended) A vehicle seat including a side airbag apparatus, the airbag apparatus comprising:

an airbag having a generally wedge shaped rear aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped rear aspect narrowing from an upper region to a lower region, thereby inhibiting loading on the thorax of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag, the airbag further having a side aspect including a generally wedge shaped portion when the airbag is deployed, the side aspect of the airbag including first and second portions, the first portion being generally triangular and narrowing from a back region to a front region, the second portion being contiguous with the first portion; and

an inflator mounted on a portion of the seat and cooperating with the airbag to supply gas thereto, thereby facilitating deployment of the airbag.

14. (currently amended) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the ~~airbag~~ has a side aspect including a generally wedge shaped portion when the airbag is deployed, the generally wedge shaped portion including of the side aspect includes a posterior edge, a top edge extending forward from the posterior edge, and a bottom edge, at least a portion of the bottom edge extending forward and upward from the posterior edge, thereby further inhibiting loading on the thorax of an occupant of the vehicle seated adjacent the deployed airbag.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag comprises a polymeric material of at least 600 denier.

17. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the inflator is configured to inflate the airbag to at least 25 pounds per square inch.

18. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag includes a vent hole for venting gas from the airbag.

19. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 13, wherein the airbag has a generally wedge shaped top aspect when deployed, the generally wedge shaped top aspect narrowing from a posterior region to a front region.

20. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 19, including a longitudinal seat axis, wherein the top aspect of the deployed airbag defines an airbag axis, and the inflator is mounted on a portion of the seat such that the airbag axis forms an angle of less than 30° with the longitudinal seat axis.

21. (new) The airbag apparatus of claim 1, wherein the airbag is configured with a side aspect measurable on a fifth percentile female side impact anthropometric test dummy having an upper arm with a first length, and wherein the bottom edge extends forward and upward from the posterior edge at such an angle that at least twenty five percent of the first length of the upper arm is outside the deployed airbag when the upper arm is oriented at an approximately 45° angle to a neutral testing position.